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MFC News

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926



The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

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- ✦ The oldest book in America, an ancient Biblical manuscript, is located at the University of Mississippi.
- ✦ The rarest of North American cranes lives in Mississippi in the grassy savannas of Jackson County. The Mississippi Sandhill Crane stands about 44 inches tall and has an eight-foot wing span.
- ✦ Cartoonist Rick London of the London's Times is from Lumberton, MS.
- ✦ MCW in Columbus (est. 1884) was the first state college for women in the U.S.
- ✦ The Mississippi Legislature passed one of the first laws in 1839 to protect the property rights of married women.

Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations may curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the **10th of the month** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions (*in Microsoft Word*) and photos to

lharris@mfc.state.ms.us

or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris

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WINTER WEATHER

By Mississippi Emergency Management Agency.

Every part of Mississippi is susceptible to winter weather conditions that include ice and snow storms. While they are not common occurrences like severe thunderstorms and tornadoes we must still be prepared.

Winter Weather: Know the Terms

Winter Storm Watch: A winter storm is possible in your area. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio or television for more information.

Winter Storm Warning: A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

Freezing Rain: Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on roads, walkways, trees and power lines.

Sleet: Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

Frost/Freeze Warning: Below freezing temperatures are expected.

Dress for the Weather

Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.

Wear mittens, which are warmer than gloves.

Wear a hat.

Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.

Prepare your home and family

Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off. For example, store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.

Winterize your home to extend the life of your fuel supply by insulating walls and attics, caulking and weatherstripping doors and windows, and installing storm windows or covering windows with plastic.

Winterize your house,

barn, shed or any other structure that may provide shelter for your family, neighbors, livestock or equipment. Clear rain gutters; repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on a house or other structure during a storm.

Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.

Keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them. House fires pose an additional risk, as more people turn to alternate heating sources without taking the necessary safety precautions.

Learn how to shut off water valves (in case a pipe bursts).

Know ahead of time what you should do to help elderly or disabled friends, neighbors or employees.

(Continued on page 4)

MSU FAN FAIR (SMOKEY BEAR GOES TO STATE)

On November 5, Smokey Bear participated in the MSU Fan Fair event to help emphasize wildfire prevention and Firewise. Fan Fair was held in conjunction with homecoming and 4-H Day on the MSU campus. Along with Smokey Bear, the Firewise landscape trailer, the MFC booth and the new eight foot inflatable Smokey Bear character were in attendance.



Two tables of wildfire prevention items were available for children of all ages. The first table was stacked high with Smokey Bear coloring sheets, pencils, tattoos, balloons, comic books and rulers. The second table included Firewise items, such as litter bags, handbook, bookmarkers, pencils and the "Living On The Edge" tabloid.

Notice that Smokey Bear always gets his pictures taken with the girls.



January's Birthdays



Rodney Crimm - 1
Nelson Hearn - 1
Thomas Howard - 2
Darrell Dickerson - 3
Howard Stogner - 4
Patricia Montgomery - 5
Erma Steed - 5
Randall Arnold - 6
Michael Randazzo - 8
Jerime Howard - 10
Martin McDaniel - 12
Billie Owen - 14
James Ratcliff - 14
Joe Barnes - 15
Faye Phippen - 15
Sandra Ford - 16
Dusty Miles - 17
Phyllis Vining - 18
Jeffrey Howell - 21
James McCulloch - 21
Michael Price - 22
James Strong - 22
Avis Havard - 25
Ryan Boyette - 27
Marcia Stark - 27
Sheila Hartzog - 28
Braxton Boswell - 30
Eric Gonyea - 30
Mark Tigner - 31



Holiday

Holiday Schedule for Martin Luther King's Birth- day and Rob- ert E. Lee's Birthday

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**Monday,
January 16,
2012**

(Continued from page 2)

Prepare your car

Check or have a mechan-
ic check the following
items on your car:

Antifreeze levels - ensure
they are sufficient to
avoid freezing.

Battery and ignition sys-
tem - should be in top
condition and battery
terminals should be
clean.

Brakes - check for wear
and fluid levels.

Heater and defroster -
ensure they work
properly.

Lights and flashing haz-
ard lights - ensure they
work properly.

Maintain at least a half
tank of gas during the
winter season.



Leaves:

Type: odd or even pinate-
ly compound; alternate;
10-41 leaflets/leaf

Size: leaf 12" - 36" long;
leaflets 2.0" - 7.0"
long, 1.0" - 2.0" wide

Margin: entire

Apex: long-tapering -
acute

Base: lobed

Shape: lanceolate

Color: dark green above;
paler (whitish) below

Surface: light green veins
above; circular glands
under lobes on leaflet
bases below

Venation: pinnate

Twigs:

Size: stout

Color: chestnut brown -
reddish brown

Surface: smooth to velve-
ty; light colored lenticels;
heart-shaped leaf scars

Buds:

Size: terminal absent; lat-
erals small, partially hid-
den by leaf base

Shape: ovoid

Color: reddish brown

Surface: finely pubescent

Fruit and Flowers:

Samara: large drooping

TREE KNOWLEDGE - WHO AM I?

clusters, single seed

Size: 1.0" long

Shape: single winged;
twisted tips on female
trees

Color: green; turning
brown

Flower: dioecious; termi-
nal clusters up to 20.0"
long; flower, 5 petals, 5
sepals, male and female
yellow-green, staminate
flowers have disagreea-
ble odor when crushed

Bark: light gray; rough;
patches of tan fissures

Physical Attributes:

Form: single stem

Size: 50.0', mature

Growth Rate: rapid; 50.0'
maximum @ 20 yrs

Life Span: short (<50 yrs)

Tolerances:

Shade: intolerant

Drought: medium

Fire: low

Anaerobic: none

Habitat and Ecology:

Site: agricultural areas,
natural forests, urban ar-
eas; establishes readily
on disturbed

sites, such as railroad em-
bankments, highway me-
dians, fencerows, and
roadsides

Soil Texture: fine - coarse

Soil pH: 4.9 - 7.5

Range: reported by the
NRCS Plants Database to
be present in all but 6 of
the contiguous U.S.

states; in Mississippi, re-
ported in 2 counties.

Timber Value and Uses:

wood often used in China
for lumber, fuelwood and
other products; occasion-
ally used for low-grade
lumber, pulpwood and
fuelwood in the U.S.

Landscaping Info:

use for
any purpose is highly dis-
couraged; first intro-
duced to America
by a gardener in Philadel-
phia, PA, in 1784, and by
1840 was commonly
available from

nurseries; also brought
into California mainly by
the Chinese who came to
California during the
goldrush in the mid-1800s

Other Facts: toxin pro-
duced in the bark and
leaves of *A. altissima* is
being studied as a possi-
ble source for a natural
herbicide; used in tradi-
tional herbal medicine in
China produces toxins
that prevent the estab-
lishment of other plant
species (allelopathy) sin-
gle tree can produce
around 325,000 to
350,000 seeds a year;
wind and water dis-
persed; viable seed pro-
duced by 2 to 3 year-old
plants.

Who Am I?

NORTHWEST DISTRICT HONOR EMPLOYEES WITH SERVICE CERTIFICATES



NWD Recipients of Service Certificates from left to right: Wayne Bailey – 15 years; Jake Hamilton – 10 years; Larry Reed – 30 years; Charles Cloinger - 15 years; Lyndol Giles – 5 years; Steve Burgess – 35 years; David Butler – 15 years; Lynn Conley – 30 years; not pictured Cliff Sewell – 15 years.

The Answer

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for December 2011 was the Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin* Durazz). Check out page 205 in the Mississippi Trees book.

We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day. ~Edith Lovejoy Pierce



**Wishing you
a warm and
fun filled
NEW YEAR**



NEWS RELEASE

JACKSON, Miss. - Flu is here. The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) reports the first laboratory-confirmed influenza case of the 2011-2012 season is a Tate County resident. Get your flu shot, especially if you're older or live with children under the age of two, due to their higher risk of complications from the flu.

Personnel Personals



- ☺ Dusty Miles, Forest Ranger, Winston County, East Central District.
- ☺ John Dixon, Forest Ranger, Smith County, South Central District.



Keep Robert 'Bob' Hamilton, Covington County Ranger in your prayers as he lost his wife to complication from a liver transplant that she had several years ago.



Gone Fishin'

- ☺ David McVay, Emer. Telecom, Supervisor, Lee County, Northeast District
- ☺ Bruce Frasier, District Forester, Neshoba County, East Central District



Moving On

- Kristopher King, Forest Ranger, Carroll County, Northwest District
- Adam Vaughn, Forest Ranger, Newton County, South Central District
- Stephen Ables, Forest Ranger, Attala County, East Central District
- Gregorio Morales, Forest Rangers, Pearl River County, Southeast District
- Thomas Bryant, Forest Ranger, Harrison County, Southeast District
- Alexis Crosby, Emer. Telecom., Stone County, Southeast District
- Nicholas Johnson, Forest Ranger, Pearl River County, Southeast District
- Joshua Crowley, Forest Ranger, Perry County, Southeast District

WINTER TREE INJURY

By Steve Nix from
www.about.com.

Winter tree damage can occur from any of a long list of cold related problems. You need to realize that tree damage is not generally caused by an unusually cold winter, but from extreme temperature fluctuations and the timing of these cold weather extremes during the dormant period and into the growing period. Here are the most common causes of winter tree damage:

Extreme and Rapid Temperature Changes:

Trees much prefer slowly falling temperatures and a period of acclimation. Trees that are dormant but not fully acclimated can be stressed or injured by a sudden, hard freeze. Wild drops in temperature following mild weather can cause injury to woody plants. Extended periods of mild winter weather can cause a tree to resume growth making them vulnerable to injury from rapid temperature drops.

Low Temperature Injury and "Frost Crack":

Frost injury can occur when a tree is growing during early fall or late spring and a freeze injures or kills vulnerable tree tissue. To avoid frost damage, plant locally adapted trees, cover trees if frost is expected, avoid frost-prone sites and lay off nitrogen fertilizer at the

end of the growing season. "Frost crack" can cause serious damage to trees by lengthening already existing wounds after repeated freezes.

Winter Injury Called Sunscald:

Winter burn is a common conifer problem. Rapid temperature change on the south side facing the sun can cause needles to burn. Drying is caused by warm conditions taking tree moisture while frozen ground and tissue restrict plant water flow. Planting hardy trees, mulching, wrapping and avoiding areas with sudden temperature can help. Sunscald can occur in late winter or early spring when the temperature is above freezing during the day and below freezing at night.

Chemical Injury from Deicing Salt:

Salts used for deicing pavements can cause damage to trees and shrubs. Symptoms of salt damage appear in spring and early summer and include browning of evergreens, leaf scorch, and branch die back. Poorly drained soils present the problem so choose salt-tolerant species for sites where salt stress may be a problem and where salt can accumulate from poor drainage.

Late Spring Freezes:

Once spring tree growth has begun, a late spring

frost can cause damage. This is especially harmful if the freeze takes place after an early spring warming period. Succulent, new tree tissue turns flaccid, appears watersoaked, and withers within a short time. The symptoms of a severe late spring freeze resembles several diseases. Freeze injury appears suddenly after a hard frost while diseases generally occur throughout the year and take much more time to develop.

Frozen Roots:

This type of damage is usually associated with newly planted seedlings and container grown trees and only after freezes that extend over a long periods of time. Shallowrooted trees and shrubs are vulnerable but can be protected with mulch, leaf litter, or snow cover. These "covers" insulate the roots sufficiently to prevent soil temperatures from staying below freezing for long periods. Plants with frozen roots may wilt and decline after growth resumes in the spring.

How to Minimize Winter Tree Damage:

- Select hardy species and cultivars.
- Avoid late season fertilization.
- Keep trees and shrubs watered during dry periods.
- Use mulch to retain moisture and to insulate roots.

Safety First . . .

DON'T INVITE CARBON MONOXIDE INTO YOUR HOME

As the weather turns chilly, Mississippians will head indoors in search of warmth. But an unwanted guest could be lurking in your home this winter: carbon monoxide gas.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas. A by-product of combustion, it can be produced by ordinary appliances, and is a common hazard in the home. Mild exposure can cause symptoms such as nausea, dizziness, or headaches; while severe poisoning can result in brain or heart damage or even death. The incomplete burning of any material containing carbon, such as gasoline, natural gas, oil, kerosene, propane, charcoal, or wood, produces the poisonous gas. One of the most common sources of exposure in the home is the gas or kerosene-powered heater. Gas-powered water heaters, stoves, and furnaces may also produce carbon monoxide.

CO prevents the body from using oxygen efficiently, causing asphyxiation. CO remains inside the body for hours. The effects depend on how much CO is in the air, how long it is breathed, and the health of an individual.

Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Low levels of CO poisoning can be confused with

flu symptoms, food poisoning or other illnesses and can have a long-term health risk if left uncorrected. CO can also impair judgment. The longer a person breathes CO, the worse the effects can be.

Symptoms of mild CO poisoning may include:

- ◆ Shortness of breath
- ◆ Mild nausea
- ◆ Mild headaches

Moderate levels of CO exposure can cause death if the following symptoms persist for a long measure of time:

- ◆ Headaches
- ◆ Dizziness
- ◆ Nausea
- ◆ Light-headedness
- ◆ Fatigue
- ◆ Confusion
- ◆ Disorientation
- ◆ Overall Weakness

High levels of CO can be fatal within minutes.

Treatment Options

Immediate measures you can take to help those suffering from CO poisoning include:

- ◆ Place disoriented or unconscious victims in fresh air IMMEDIATELY.
- ◆ If you cannot get the people out of the home, then open all windows and doors. Any combustion appliances (gas stoves, water heaters, furnaces, boilers, etc.)

should be turned off.

- ◆ Take those who were subjected to CO to a hospital emergency room as quickly as possible. A simple blood test will be able to determine if CO poisoning has occurred.

Breathe easy — you can make your home safer with some simple precautions this winter.

- ◆ Have furnaces and heaters inspected every year.
- ◆ Install a carbon monoxide detector in your house, and plan to check its battery every time you check your smoke detector batteries.
- ◆ Prevent exposure:
 - Never burn anything in a stove or fireplace that is not vented properly
 - Never heat your house with a gas oven
 - Never run a generator indoors, in an enclosed space such as a basement, or near a window
 - Do not warm your car up in a closed garage
 - If your garage is attached to your house, close the door to the house even while you warm up the car
 - Install an effective ventilation system to remove CO.
 - Maintain appliances and equipment in good order (do preventive maintenance). Have a certified heating and ventilation technician

check your furnace or other combustion appliances for proper ventilation and exhaust.

- Check your fireplace's chimney during the fall each year to ensure appropriate ventilation to remove smoke (which contains CO).
- Consider switching from fossil fuel-powered to electrical and/or battery-powered equipment.
- If a CO detector goes off in your home, call 911 and go outside for fresh air IMMEDIATELY.
- Instruct your family in the hazards, signs, and symptoms of CO exposure. that you have an EVACUATION PLAN for your family. Such a plan will help protect your family from prolonged exposure to CO and greatly assists fire officials in determining if a home is empty.

Read more about [avoiding carbon monoxide at HealthyMS.com](http://HealthyMS.com). The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have [more in-depth information on carbon monoxide poisoning](http://HealthyMS.com) and ways to prevent it. Portable generators are a prime cause of carbon monoxide poisoning; FEMA has full information on [safe use of generators around the home](http://HealthyMS.com).



First Time, Every Time